

Applicant : John E. Hartman  
Appln. No. : 10/627,063  
Page : 6

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated February 16, 2005, claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dziewulski U.S. Patent No. 3,981,099.

Claims 7 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dziewulski '099.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the stop members contact the frusto-conical surfaces of the at least one support collar and prevent downward movement of the supporting collar.

Applicant respectfully submits that Dziewulski '099 does not disclose any such arrangement. Specifically, the side wall 13 and skirt 15 of Dziewulski '099 are not contacted by stop members. The other references are also not believed to disclose or suggest the arrangement of amended claim 1.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable for those reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1.

Furthermore, claim 4 has been amended to recite that the frusto-conical surfaces are centered at the seat sections of the slots. None of the cited references are believed to disclose or suggest such an arrangement.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite that the slots have opposed side surfaces that are tapered at the expanded seat section to define frusto-conical surfaces.

Applicant submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest such an arrangement.

Claims 11-15 depend from claim 10, and are therefore believed to be allowable for those reasons set forth above with respect to amended claim 10.

Furthermore, claim 12 has been amended to recite that the support member includes a plurality of stop members on the support members, the stop members abutting the frusto-conical surfaces of the slots. Applicant respectfully submits that Dziewulski '099 does not disclose or suggest any such arrangement.

Claims 16-19 have been canceled, such that the rejections of these claims are now believed to be moot.

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Appln. No. : 10/627,063  
Page : 7

Applicant has added new independent claim 20, and dependent claims 21-23. New claim 20 recites, among other features, a ring-like support collar comprising a horizontal web having an outer peripheral surface with at least three outwardly protruding portions, each including a slot at a center portion thereof. A pot is removably positioned in the hole of the support collar, with a lower portion of the pot extending below a lower peripheral edge of the inner peripheral surface of the ring-like support collar. The pot includes an outwardly extending lip having a lower surface that contacts the support collar to support the pot in an upright position.

Support for new claims 20-23 can be found, for example, in Figs. 2 and 3 of the present application as filed. No new matter is believed to be introduced by new claims 20-23.

Applicant has made a concerted effort to place the present application in condition for allowance. In the event there are any remaining informalities, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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